

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT REFORM OF THE 1872 MINING LAW

WHEREAS the Mining Law of 1872 has been the law of the land concerning mining for more than a century; and

WHEREAS provisions of this law have resulted in serious degradation of stream resources throughout the western United States; and

WHEREAS the existing law allows miners to purchase public lands, including riparian areas along streams, for purposes of mining; and

WHEREAS federal land management agencies presently have no discretion to weigh the value of fishery resources against the value of mineral resources on valid mining claims,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society supports reform of the 1872 Mining Law to include provisions that will protect existing fishery resources and provide for restoration of streams damaged from past mining; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our Executive Director to work with the Executive Committee and other knowledgeable members of the Society to provide professional input on fisheries concerns during the legislative process to reform the 1872 Mining Law.